

we can and must do better. Our primary focus must be on getting to those who are still stranded and need immediate assistance. Once that is accomplished I feel strongly that Congress must take a critical look at this response effort.

This is a moment of national sorrow. Sorrow at not preventing the preventable and sorrow for the tragic circumstances that came to be. Yet it is also a moment of national unity that is truly heart-warming.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I send my thoughts and prayers to all those affected by Hurricane Katrina and I thank all those brave and generous Americans who are working to bring assistance and relief to the region. The outpouring of generosity from Americans across the country can make us all proud.

#### CONGRATULATING THE TRACY NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAM

#### HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tracy National Little League All-star team, from my hometown in Tracy, California. This group of 12-year-olds rose up through the ranks, first becoming District 67 champs, then Section 3 champs, then Northern California champs, and finally Western Region Runner-ups.

Players Casey Ankam, Brock Blades, Jeramee Campbell, Dominic D'souze, Alex Flores, Michael Hager, Jacob Lopez, Kyle Moses, Tyler Sanfilippo, Tyler Trew, Jacob Valdez, Joshua Wesley and Casey Wichman showed great talent and teamwork. Their hard work and dedication really paid off, taking them nearly all the way to the Little League World Series. Manager Emmett Lee and Coaches John Moses and Rob Wichman provide great leadership for the boys, and were instrumental in their success.

As many of you know, I am a big baseball fan. My son Richie plays on his high school team, and each year I look forward to playing in the Congressional Baseball Game. I am very proud of these kids from Tracy, and know that the skills they learn on the diamond—teamwork, competition, dedication—will serve them well throughout their lives. I look forward to following their progress again next season and know they will be even better.

#### IN HONOR OF THE WARD'S 75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a special couple from Caraway, AR, Ode and Beatrice Ward, who will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on September 20, 2005. This is a significant milestone and one that only a very few are fortunate enough to celebrate in their lifetime.

Ode and Beatrice Ward met in Leachville, AR, and decided to marry in the fall of 1930.

The couple made their home in northeast Arkansas and spent the next 42 years growing cotton, soybeans, and milo. Throughout the years, the Wards were blessed with three children, James E. Ward, Vondella W. Davis, and Lois M. Meadows, and now have the pleasure of spending time with six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Their love for each other and their family extends to their neighbors as well, where they continue to stay involved in their community. They remain active members in the political process and are often seen participating in local activities and events. Their energy is truly remarkable and perhaps the secret to a long and fulfilling life.

A 75th wedding anniversary reminds us that marriage is not an instant achievement but a covenant that requires love, patience, and respect. Ode and Beatrice Ward have perfected this commitment to each other and are truly blessed to have a strong marriage, their family, and a lifetime of memories. As they live each day by their wedding vows, they continue to inspire all who are fortunate to know them.

On September 20, 2005, Ode and Beatrice Ward will join many of their family and friends at a celebration to honor their 75 years of marriage. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this joyous occasion and sending our best wishes for many more years of love and happiness.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA BOGLE

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one who was an extraordinary force behind the recent designation of the Congaree Swamp National Monument as a National Park. When Martha Bogle came to this 22,200-acre National Parks Service site near Columbia, SC, in 1995, about 50,000 people each year visited the old-growth bottomland hardwood forest that was designated a national monument. Today that figure has tripled and it is due in large measure to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Bogle.

Upon her arrival, Ms. Bogle realized the majesty of the towering pines and giant hardwoods, but access to the facility was so poor that few visitors were enjoying these amazing vistas. As the new superintendent, Ms. Bogle looked for a cost-effective way the community could join in making this hidden jewel more accessible. Her tenacity paid off when she convinced the South Carolina National Guard to partner with the Parks Service in building a new entrance road and visitors center. The result was an award-winning, 12,000 square foot visitors center with wonderful educational tools and roads and parking lots that could better accommodate visitors. This was quite an accomplishment for Ms. Bogle's first foray as a park superintendent.

Still her vision for the site was not complete. With improved facilities and access, Ms. Bogle embarked upon a campaign to turn the Congaree Swamp National Monument into a national park. This was an even greater undertaking because only 52 of the National Parks Service's 388 sites were designated as na-

tional parks. Yet Ms. Bogle found allies in my former colleague, Senator Fritz Hollings, and myself, and we joined her and the many "Friends of the Congaree" in the fight to secure the designation. After some difficult days and lots of hard work on the part of Ms. Bogle and many others, on November 10, 2003, the President signed legislation that officially changed the Congaree Swamp National Monument into the Congaree National Park. In addition, we were able to include in the legislation, at Ms. Bogle's request, a 4,600-acre expansion of the site. As she departs, Ms. Bogle is working to acquire the additional property from willing sellers.

Ms. Bogle's love of nature began in her childhood in a small Tennessee town. Upon her graduation from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a Bachelor's in Botany, Ms. Bogle wasted no time in securing a position with the National Parks Service. Her 26-year career has taken her to nine National Parks Service sites and one national wildlife refuge.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, and my colleagues to join me today in thanking Martha Bogle for her tremendous contributions to the Congaree National Park, and wish her well as she leaves South Carolina to become assistant superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. No matter where she serves in the National Park Service, Ms. Bogle brings an infectious joy in her surroundings and a commitment that will insure our Nation's natural treasures are preserved and protected for many generations to come.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAVONTREAL ALLEN, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Chavontreal Allen, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Chavontreal is a member of the Frisco Boys and Girls Clubs of Collins County. This organization contributed matching funds of \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Chavontreal Allen for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.